

Listening skills practice: Unusual British festivals – exercises

Listen to the presentation about unusual British festivals and do the exercises to practise and improve your listening skills.

1. Preparation: matching

Do this exercise before you listen. Match the two parts of the phrase to make common festival activities. Write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

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|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1..... follow | a. a firework display |
| 2..... cook and eat | b. as a special character |
| 3..... watch | c. your house or street |
| 4..... take part in a | d. ancient traditions |
| 5..... decorate | e. competition |
| 6..... dress up | f. special food |

2. Check your understanding: true or false

Do this exercise while you listen. Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|----|---|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | Many of these festivals are actually races or competitions. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | The Burning of the Clavie brings good luck for the new year. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | On Shrove Tuesday in Scarborough people dance with ropes. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | Cheese rolling involves running away from a big, round cheese. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | Snail racing started in the UK. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | The competition to pull the ugliest face is an old tradition. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. | The Burning of the Clocks festival marks the summer solstice. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. | The Burning of the Clocks festival ends with people throwing water. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

3. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Do this exercise while you listen. Circle the best phrase to complete these sentences.

1. The Clavie is a whisky container / a wooden cross / a bonfire made of things people don't need .
2. In the Up Helly Aa festival, they burn a wooden man / a Viking boat / a line in the grass .
3. During a pancake race, you have to eat as many pancakes as possible / run as fast as possible while tossing a pancake in a pan / run and jump over the ropes without dropping the pancake .
4. Nowadays, the people who win the cheese rolling competition are usually top athletes / people from the village / visitors from all over the world .
5. The fastest snail in the Snail Racing is cooked with garlic and butter / rescued from the barbecue / given a prize of extra lettuce .
6. Black pudding throwing is similar to pancake tossing / Olympic sports like javelin and shotput / bowling .
7. To win the best gurner competition, one man had all his teeth removed / grew a really long beard / had a lot of facial piercings .
8. The Burning of the Clocks festival is 2 years old / 20 years old / 200 years old .

Which of these traditions would you like to take part in?

Do they remind you of any other festivals that you know about?

I'd like to ... because ...

There's a festival in ..., where they ...

Vocabulary Box

Write any new words you have learnt in this lesson.